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S E C O N D C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (S U B J E C T)

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TAGS: PFOR, MT, CB, UN, US, CH, CI, KN, KS
SUBJ: MALTESE RELEATIONS WITH CAMBODIA, NORTH VIETNAM
AND VIET CONG

REF: VALLETTA 1830

1. SUMMARY: IN A STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT AND RESPONSES
TO OPPOSITION QUESTIONS OCTOBER 10, PRIME MINISTER
MINOFF LAID OUT GOM POLICY ON RECOGNITION AND DIPLO-
MATIC RELATIONS, USING RECENT RECOGNITION OF CAMBODIA,DRV,
AND PRG AS PRINCIPAL EXAMPLES AND WITH REFERENCES
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TO KOREA, CHINA AND CHILE.

2. ACCORDING TIMES OF MALTA (IND-CONS) MINTOFF SAID DECISION ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SIHANOUK GOVERNMENT (EFFECTIVE AUG 27, 1973) TAKEN AFTER VISIT TO CHINA BY GOM DEL EARLIER THIS YEAR (VALLETTA 1171) AND WITH VIET CONG (EFFECTIVE SEPT 8, 1973) AT ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. RECOGNITION OF DRV (EFFECTIVE SEPT 20, 1973) BEING FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSIONS ON WHAT FORM DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WILL TAKE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO OPPOSITION QUESTIONS, P.M. SAID MEMBERSHIP IN UN NOT CRITERION FOR FORMAL RELATIONS. ISRAEL HAD OPPOSED EAST GERMANY CLAIMING IT HAD NOT PAID WAR REPARATIONS. MALTA COULD NOT HAVE RECOGNIZED WEST GERMANY IF UN MEMBERSHIP ESSENTIAL. GOM HAD CHOSEN SIHANOUK RATHER THAN LON NOL BECAUSE THE FORMER REPRESENTS THE PEOPLE AND CONTROLS NINETY PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY. CAMBODIA NEEDS MALTA'S HELP AND IN FUTURE WILL REPAY A UNDREDFOLD. GOM RECOGNIZED NORTH KOREA, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS NOT A UN MEMBER. GOM RECOGNIZED PRC, WHILE PREVIOUS GOM HAD RECOGNIZED ROC. MALTESE PEOPLE CAN NOW DECIDE WHICH WAS WISER.

4. ANSWERING QUESTIONS ON LEGITIMACY OF VIET CONG, MINTOFF SAID GOM BELIEVES PRG IS TRUE REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH VIET NAM. WHEN IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THIEU HAD BEEN ELECTED, MINTOFF ANSWERED THAT EVEN IN MALTA A PARTY (NATIONALISTS) WHICH WON ELECTION DID NOT ALWAYS REPRESENT THE PEOPLE. WHETHER GOM SHOULD HAVE WAITED UNTIL END OF CIVIL WAR IS MATTER OF OPINION, BUT ONE SHOULD "GIVE EXPRESSION TO ACT OF SOLIDARITY." THERE IS ALSO CIVIL WAR IN CHILE. GOM WILL NEVER RECOGNIZE PRESENT CHILEAN GOVERNMENT, BUT IF A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IS ESTABLISHED IN CHILE, GOM WILL GIVE IT IMMEDIATE RECOGNITION.

5. MINTOFF SIDESTEPPED OPPOSITION QUESTION ON WHAT MALTESE INTERESTS WERE SERVED BY RECOGNITION OF SIHANOUK GOVERNMENT AND PRG.

6. COMMENT: AS NEW AND FORMAL MEMBER OF NON-ALIGNED GROUP AND BECAUSE OF CERTAIN OBLIGATION TO PRC FOR ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AID PROGRAM AND OTHER ASSISTANCE, GOM ACTIONS NOT SURPRISING. WE CAN EXPECT THAT MINTOFF WILL TAKE SIMILAR MOVES IN FUTURE, AND GENERALLY TAKE POSITIONS ALONG LINES OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, TO EXTENT THERE IS A NON-ALIGNED POSITION. MINTOFF OBVIOUSLY GIVES LITTLE WEIGHT IF ANY TO WESTERN ATTITUDES IN CARRYING OUT HIS HIGHLY FLEXIBLE FOREIGN POLICY.

7. NATIONALISTS PERFORMED UNUSUALLY WELL IN THIS
DEBATE, ASKING POINTED QUESTIONS THAT CLEARLY PROVOKED
MINTOFF TO SAY MORE THAN HE INTENDED.
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